

Remarks/Arguments:

This is a reply to the office action of May 23, 2007.

The examiner rejection claims 11 - 17 and 20 - 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112 on the ground that the specification does not define “diblock fraction” or how it is measured.

We have amended the claims by replacing each instance of “diblock fraction” with “diblock content”, which is the term more commonly used in the U.S., although “diblock fraction” is sometimes used. The German “anteil” in the original application supports both translations.

The technical meaning of the diblock content is very well known to people of ordinary skill in the art. It means that portion of a block copolymer which is formed of only two blocks. As evidence of industry use of the phrase, we attach selected pages from websites of polymer manufacturers, concerning the polymers KRATONTM D-1119P, Zeon Quintac 3520 (these polymers are also explicitly taught as suitable examples in the application as filed (cf. paragraph [0013]) and Europrene® Sol T 190.

From the data sheets and from the patents listed below, it is evident that it is common in the art to refer to the diblock content (in percent) of block copolymers and to claim the diblock content as a characteristic of a composition. The ordinarily skilled person does not need any further information to understand “diblock content”, i.e., he does not need a definition of what diblock content is, or exactly how it is determined or measured. The person skilled in the art could to carry out the invention and would know what the metes and bounds of claim 11 are. We submit that the phrase "diblock content" is sufficiently well known that additional description is not required and thus, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been fulfilled by the present specification and claims.

We have found 73 U.S. Patents which mention “diblock content”; 23 of those, listed below, recite “diblock content” in the claims:

7,230,041	6,486,229	6,025,071	5,854,335
6,692,805	6,433,069	5,994,476	5,798,401
6,657,000	6,384,138	5,948,527	5,750,607
6,582,829	6,197,845	5,912,295	5,271,999
6,531,544	6,184,285	5,869,562	5,242,984
6,508,875	6,120,913	5,869,555	

The attached abstract of a 1971 article published in the Journal of Applied Polymer Science also shows that it has been known for some time how to determine diblock content. According to the abstract, the diblock content of commercial triblock polymers such as "kraton" (as in the present application) can be determined by gel permeation chromatography and small-angle x-ray scattering.

35 U.S.C. §102 (Claims 11 - 13, 16 - 17, 20 - 24)

The examiner has withdrawn the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Wang, but has rejected the same claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), over the same reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed, inasmuch as the claim 11 requires a diblock fraction of more than 40 percent. As the Examiner correctly notes, Wang fails to disclose a block copolymer with the specific feature of the high diblock content, as set forth in claim 11. The present invention is thus not anticipated by Wang.

Moreover, we submit that claim 11 is not obvious over Wang. Wang teaches compositions that serve a diametrically opposed purpose: while Wang aims to provide a water-sensitive adhesive composition (cf. abstract), the present invention provides an adhesive with improved wet-peel strength (abstract). Table 1 of the present application clearly shows that this goal is in fact achieved, due to the diblock content specified.

There is nothing in the references of record that would motivate a person of routine skill in the art to reverse the teaching of Wang – with respect to the goal to be achieved – by using the diblock content specified in claim 11. The remaining claims depend ultimately from claim 11 and are deemed non-obvious as well for the subject matter they inherit from claim 11.

The rejection of claims 14 and 15 as obvious over Wang alone is respectfully traversed for reasons already discussed with respect to parent claim 11.

We therefore submit that the claims now presented are not obvious from Wang, and that this application is in proper form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

/Charles Fallow/

Charles W. Fallow
Reg. No. 28,946

Shoemaker and Mattare, Ltd.
10 Post Office Road - Suite 100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

August 28, 2007

Product Information - D-1119P	
Name	D-1119P
Description	KRATON™ D-1119P Polymer is a styrenic/isoprene block copolymer that consists of approximately 34% SIS block copolymer and 66% diblock (SI) polymer. Overall, the block copolymer contains 22% weight styrene. When properly formulated, KRATON™ D-1119P Polymer provides lower viscosity and higher tack adhesives than other conventional SIS block copolymers. In fact, KRATON™ D-1119P is designed to give a good balance of strength, tack, and easy processability, which is very important in pressure-sensitive adhesive application.
Polymer Type	SIS Linear
Region	North America
Polystyrene Content (in % mass)	22
Hardness (Shore A, 30s)	30
Solution Viscosity (in Pa.s at 25% mass in toluene at 25°C)	0.34
Melt Flow Weight (g/10min)	25





Shell Chemicals

KRATON* POLYMERS

For use in Adhesives, Sealants and Coatings

KRATON
Polymers

Kraton D - SIS. Summary of properties. These are typical values and should not be used to set specifications

Grade ¹	D-1107	D-1111	D-1112	D-1113	D-1117	D-1119	D-1124	D-1160	D-1161	D-1163	D-1165	D-1193X
Belgium, USA ²	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Belgium, France ²	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kashima, Japan ²	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Paulina, Brazil ²	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Penns, The Netherlands ²	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wessling, Germany ²	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Linear SS/S	15	22	15	16	17	22	30	19	15	15	30	24
Linear SS/S	17	15	38	56	33	66	28	0	19	38	19	20
Linear SS/S	1.60	1.20	0.80	0.68	0.47	0.34	0.34	1.00	1.20	0.80	0.34	0.40
Linear SS/S	9	2	23	16	33	25	4	9	12	16	8	13
Tensile Strength (MPa) ³	28	28	10*	4*	8*	-	-	32	28	17	21	-
300% Modulus (MPa) ³	0.9	1.8	0.5*	0.3*	0.4*	-	-	1.9	0.9	0.7	2.7	-
Elongation at Break (%) ³	1300	1200	1400*	1500*	1300*	-	-	1300	1300	1400	1200	-
Hardness, Shore A	37	52	34	-	32	-	-	52	37	34	65	-
Physical Form ⁴	Dense Pellet, Porous Pellet, Milled Powder	Porous Pellet	Dense Pellet	Dense Pellet	Dense Pellet	Dense Pellet	Dense Pellet	Porous Pellet	Porous Pellet, Milled Powder	Porous Pellet, Milled Powder	Porous Pellet	Dense Pellet

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* KRATON is a Shell trade mark
Version 4, 5/1799

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Grade	Quintac 3620	Quintac 3421	Quintac 3433N	Quintac 3520	Quintac 3450	Quintac 3460
Properties						
Polymer Structure	H	L	L	L	R	R
Styrene Content	14	14	16	15	19	25
Mw	230	200	170	200	200	180
SI Diblock Content	12	26	56	78	30	42
Solution Viscosity	1.50	1.30	0.81	1.10	0.49	0.38
Melt Viscosity	600	550	500	670	240	250
Melt Index	9	10	12	7	16	11
Hardness	42	36	34	35	44	55
300% Modulus	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.5	1.8
Tensile Strength	14	14	6	3	7	6
Elongation	1300	1400	1500	2000	1100	960

- 1) L: Linear R: Radial H: Hybrid (mixture of linear and radial polymer)
- 2) Abbe's refractometer
- 3) Converted by Gel Permeation Chromatography
- 4) Brookfield Viscometer (25wt.% solids toluene solution, at 25 °C)
- 5) Flowtester (Load:100kgf/cm², dimension of the die:1mmφ×10mm, at 180 °C)
- 6) ASTM D-1238 (G condition)
- 7) ASTM D-2240
- 8) ASTM D-638 (modified)

FDA Status: Quintac is manufactured to meet the specification and requirements set forth FDA regulation of title 21, section 177. 1810.
CAS No. 25038-32-8

Adhesive Properties of Quintac (Typical Values)

Grade		Quintac 3620	Quintac 3421	Quintac 3433N	Quintac 3520	Quintac 3450	Quintac 3460
Properties							
Polymer Structure		H	L	L	L	R	R
Styrene Content	[%]	14	14	16	15	19	25
Mw	$\times 10^3$	230	200	170	200	200	180
SI Diblock Content	[%]	12	26	56	78	30	42
Tackiness	¹⁾ [cm]	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.8	9.6	11.2
Peel Adhesion	²⁾ [N/m]	680	700	860	1300	620	760
Holding Power	³⁾ [min.]	1500	950	1000	230	2900	5000
Carton Sealability	⁴⁾ [min.]	500	500	1600	> 3000	420	1600
SAFT	⁵⁾ [°C]	72.0	70.0	75.2	73.0	78.5	89.5

1) PSTC-6 Rolling Ball (at 23 °C)

2) PSTC-1 180° Peel (to Steel, at 23 °C)

3) PSTC-7 (to Steel, 10×25mm, 1kg load, at 50 °C)

4) Zeon Method (500g load, at 23 °C)

5) Shear Adhesion Failure Temperature (to Steel, 10×25mm, 1kg load, temperature elevating rate: 0.5 °C/min.)

Formulation:

SIS	100
Tackifier ⁶⁾ (Quintone R100)	100
Plasticizer (Shellflex 371N)	20
Antioxidant (Irganox 1010)	1

6) Aliphatic Hydrocarbon Resin, Softening Point: 96 °C

Precautions to be taken in handling and storing. Quintac Thermoplastic Rubbers can accumulate electrostatic charges during unloading and transport. Electrostatic charges may cause a flash fire when treated in presence of volatile or flammable materials. Ground all equipment, and pour the product slowly into chute or vessel under inert gas. Avoid storage in wet or sunny conditions. Avoid ignition sources. Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) of a specific Quintac Thermoplastic Rubber product for further safety information.

* * *

The information contained herein is to the best of our knowledge accurate, but since the circumstances and conditions in which it may be used are beyond our control, we do not accept liability for any loss or damage, however arising, which results directly or indirectly from the use of such information, nor do we offer any warranty of immunity against patent infringement.

SEPTEMBER 2000

Zeon Chemicals L.P.
4111 Bells Lane
Louisville, KY 40211
Tel: (502) 775-7600
Fax: (502) 775-2025





POLIMERI EUROPA

EUROPRENE® SOL T 190

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

EUROPRENE SOL T 190 is a Styrene-Isoprene block copolymer designed for hot-melt pressure-sensitive adhesives applications, hot-melts and solvent based adhesives. The polymer is supplied in pellet form. A suitable antioxidant system has been added to the polymer.

COMPOSITION

Molecular structure	Linear
Styrene content	16% by wt.
Isoprene content	84% by wt.
Diblock content	25%
Oil content	N/A
Antioxidant	Non Staining

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES	TYPICAL VALUE	TEST METHOD
Specific gravity g/cc	0.915	ASTM D 792
Tensile Strenght (A) Mpa	12.0	ASTM D 412
300% Modulus (A) Mpa	1.0	ASTM D 412
Elongation at Break (A) %	1200	ASTM D 412
Shore A Hardness (A)	30	ASTM D 2240
Melt Flow Index (B) g/10 min	9.0	ASTM D 1238
Physical Form	White pellet	

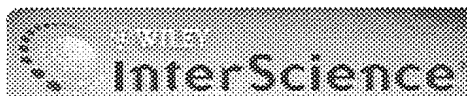
(A) ASTM D 2292 compression moulded specimens

(B) 5 kg. @ 190°C

Milan, January 2002

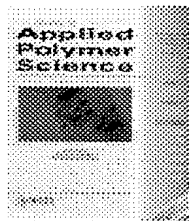
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Article**The effect of diblock and homopolymer impurities on the morphology of triblock polymers**

L. J. Fetters, B. H. Meyer, D. McIntyre

The University of Akron, Department of Polymer Science, Akron, Ohio 44325

Abstract

Commercial triblock polymers (Kratons) consisting of polystyrene and a polydiene were characterized via gel permeation chromatography and small-angle x-ray scattering in order to determine the amount of free polystyrene and diblock material and to clarify the effect of these polymeric impurities on the morphology of solvent-cast samples. Gel permeation chromatography measurements revealed the Kratons to consist of 80-85% triblock, 15-20% diblock, and trace amounts of free polystyrene. Pure triblocks, impurity-doped pure triblocks, the Kratons, and a postpolymerically degraded Kraton were examined with regard to the effect of polymeric impurities on morphology. Small amounts (<5%) of free polystyrene induce a regularization of the glassy domains, while increased amounts of this homopolymer apparently lead to diffuse phase boundaries. The presence of diblock polymer results in a loss of macrolattice details, indicating the presence of less ordered and more diffuse glassy domains.

Received: 7 December 1971

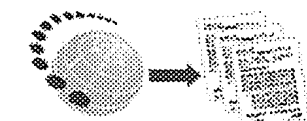
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